

In the Claims:

1 1. [Currently Amended] A method for determining a warranty start
2 date for a product comprising the steps of:
3 defining a warranty start event;
4 generating a timestamp with the product after detection of the
5 occurrence of said warranty start event; ~~and,~~
6 storing said timestamp in a memory; and
7 wherein the product is for producing output, and wherein said
8 warranty start event comprises production of a specified quantity of the output.

1 2. [Original] A method for determining a warranty start date for a
2 product as defined by claim 1 further comprising the step of reading said
3 timestamp from said memory to determine the warranty start date.

1 3. [Original] A method for determining a warranty start date as
2 defined by claim 1 wherein said memory is internal to the product.

1 4. [Original] A method for determining a warranty start date as
2 defined by claim 1 wherein said step of generating a timestamp comprises
3 obtaining said timestamp from an internal clock.

1 5. [Original] A method for determining a warranty start date as
2 defined by claim 1 wherein the product is connected to a data network, and
3 wherein said step of generating a timestamp comprises obtaining said timestamp
4 over the network.

1 6. [Original] A method for determining a warranty start date as
2 defined by claim 1 wherein the product is connected to a data network, and
3 wherein said memory is remotely located from the product and is accessible over
4 the network.

1 7. [Canceled].

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1 8. [Currently Amended] A method for determining a warranty start
2 date as defined by claim [[7]] 1 wherein the product is for connection to a data
3 network, and wherein said step of generating a timestamp comprises obtaining a
4 timestamp over the network.

1 9. [Original] A method for determining a warranty start date as
2 defined by claim 8 wherein said step of obtaining a timestamp over the network
3 comprises connecting to a time server over the network, querying said time
4 server with a network time protocol query for a time value, and obtaining a time
5 value from said time server in a network time protocol.

1 10. [Original] A method for determining a warranty start date as
2 defined by claim 1 wherein said step of storing said timestamp in said memory
3 further comprises encrypting said timestamp.

1 11. [Currently Amended] A method for determining a warranty start
2 date as defined by claim 10 wherein the method further comprises the step of
3 outputting said encrypted timestamp ~~with~~ from the product.

1 12. [Original] A method for determining a warranty start date for a
2 product as defined by claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the step of
3 continuously searching for occurrence of said warranty start event.

1 13. [Currently Amended] A method for determining a warranty start
2 date for a computer peripheral, the peripheral for connection to a network and
3 for producing output, the method comprising the steps of:
4 defining a warranty start event comprising production of a
5 specified amount of output;
6 ~~continuously~~ searching for occurrence of said warranty start event;
7 generating a timestamp with the product after detection of the
8 occurrence of said warranty start event, said generation of a timestamp
9 comprising querying a timeserver connected to the network for a time value;
10 encrypting said timestamp; storing said encrypted timestamp in a

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11 non-volatile memory in the product; and,
12 outputting said encrypted timestamp from the product.

1 14. [Original] A method for determining a warranty start date as
2 defined by claim 13 wherein the computer peripheral product is for producing
3 documents, and wherein:
4 said warranty start event comprises production of a specified
5 number of documents; and,
6 said encrypted timestamp can be retrieved from said memory and
7 output on a product test page.

1 15. [Currently Amended] A computer program product for causing a
2 product to determine a warranty start date for the product, the computer
3 program product comprising computer readable instructions embedded in a
4 computer readable medium, the instructions when executed by the product
5 causing the product to:
6 retrieve a stored warranty start event definition from a memory;
7 generate a timestamp with the product after detection of the
8 occurrence of said warranty start event;
9 store said timestamp in a memory; and,
10 output said timestamp from said memory when prompted to
11 determine the warranty start date; and
12 wherein the product comprises a product for connection to a
13 network, and wherein causing the product to generate a timestamp comprises
14 causing the product to obtain a current time value over the network.

1 16. [Canceled].

1 17. [Currently Amended] A computer program product as defined by
2 claim [[16]] 15 wherein causing the peripheral product to obtain said current
3 time value comprises causing the peripheral product to query a time server over
4 the network for a current time value in a standard protocol.

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1 18. [Currently Amended] A computer program product as defined
2 by claim 15 wherein the product is connected to [[a]] the network and wherein
3 causing the product to store said time stamp in a memory comprises causing the
4 product to store said timestamp in a memory remote from the product via the
5 network.

1 19. [Original] A computer program product as defined by claim 15
2 wherein the product is for producing units of output, and wherein said warranty
3 start event comprises production of a specified number of units of output.

1 20. [Original] A computer program product as defined by claim 15
2 wherein the product is a document production apparatus for producing
3 documents, wherein the computer program further causes the product to
4 encrypt said timestamp, and wherein causing the product to output said
5 timestamp comprises causing the product to output a diagnostic test document
6 when prompted, at least a portion of said diagnostic test page comprising said
7 encrypted timestamp.

1 21. [Currently Amended] A computer program product for causing a
2 computer peripheral to determine a warranty start date for the peripheral, the
3 peripheral for producing documents and for connection to a network, the
4 computer program product comprising computer readable instructions embedded
5 in a computer readable medium, the instructions when executed by the
6 peripheral causing the peripheral to:
7 retrieve a stored warranty start event definition from a memory,
8 said warranty start event definition comprising production of a specified
9 cumulative number of documents, said memory internal to the peripheral;
10 ~~continually~~ search for occurrence of said warranty start event;
11 obtain a timestamp over the network after detection of the
12 occurrence of said warranty start event by querying of a time server;
13 encrypt said timestamp;
14 store said encrypted timestamp in said memory; and,
15 output said encrypted timestamp on a diagnostic document from
16 said memory when prompted to determine said warranty start date.

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1 22. [New] A method for determining a warranty start date for a
2 product comprising the steps of:
3 defining a warranty start event;
4 generating a timestamp with the product after detection of the
5 occurrence of said warranty start event;
6 storing said timestamp in a memory; and
7 wherein the product is connected to a data network, and wherein
8 said step of generating a timestamp comprises obtaining said timestamp over
9 the network.

1 23. [New] A method for determining a warranty start date for a
2 product comprising the steps of:
3 defining a warranty start event;
4 generating a timestamp with the product after detection of the
5 occurrence of said warranty start event;
6 storing said timestamp in a memory; and
7 wherein the product is connected to a data network, and wherein
8 said memory is remotely located from the product and is accessible over the
9 network.

1 24. [New] A computer program product for causing a product to
2 determine a warranty start date for the product, the computer program product
3 comprising computer readable instructions embedded in a computer readable
4 medium, the instructions when executed by the product causing the product to:
5 retrieve a stored warranty start event definition from a memory;
6 generate a timestamp with the product after detection of the
7 occurrence of said warranty start event;
8 store said timestamp in a memory;
9 output said timestamp from said memory when prompted to
10 determine the warranty start date; and
11 wherein the product is connected to a network and wherein
12 causing the product to store said time stamp in a memory comprises causing the
13 product to store said timestamp in a memory remote from the product via the

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14 network.

1 25. [New] A computer program product for causing a product to
2 determine a warranty start date for the product, the computer program product
3 comprising computer readable instructions embedded in a computer readable
4 medium, the instructions when executed by the product causing the product to:
5 retrieve a stored warranty start event definition from a memory;
6 generate a timestamp with the product after detection of the
7 occurrence of said warranty start event;
8 store said timestamp in a memory;
9 output said timestamp from said memory when prompted to
10 determine the warranty start date; and
11 wherein the product is for producing units of output, and wherein
12 said warranty start event comprises production of a specified number of units of
13 output.

1 26. [New] A computer program product for causing a product to
2 determine a warranty start date for the product, the computer program product
3 comprising computer readable instructions embedded in a computer readable
4 medium, the instructions when executed by the product causing the product to:
5 retrieve a stored warranty start event definition from a memory;
6 generate a timestamp with the product after detection of the
7 occurrence of said warranty start event;
8 store said timestamp in a memory;
9 output said timestamp from said memory when prompted to
10 determine the warranty start date; and
11 wherein the product is a document production apparatus for
12 producing documents, wherein the computer program further causes the product
13 to encrypt said timestamp, and wherein causing the product to output said
14 timestamp comprises causing the product to output a diagnostic test document
15 when prompted, at least a portion of said diagnostic test page comprising said
16 encrypted timestamp.

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